IT-oLogy Connections 2013 in partnership with Connect South Carolina Slated for May 16

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Conference to highlight the latest in hardware, software, infrastructure; presentations by Microsoft Kinect expert James Ashley and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Steven Naifeh

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Columbia, SC – Preparations for the first "IT-oLogy Connections 2013 in partnership with Connect South Carolina" conference are underway as event hosts IT-oLogy and Connect South Carolina recently confirmed two dynamic speakers in James Ashley, expert on Microsoft Kinect for Windows; and Steven Naifeh, a Pulitzer Prize-winning author and modern artist for the May 16 event.

Sessions provided by the speakers include:

- The use of gesture-based control systems for computers using skeletal recognition, facial recognition, and/or voice recognition. This portion of the summit will be presented by Ashley and introduced and sponsored by Microsoft.
- Naifeh's modern art is based on geometric abstraction and he will show how he uses technology to make the planet more beautiful. Naifeh's session will mark the opening of his gallery exhibition, *Found in Translation: The Art of Steven Naifeh,* and will be introduced and sponsored by the Columbia Museum of Art.

"We couldn't be happier with the lineup that is taking shape for Connections 2013," said IT-oLogy's Director of Grow IT Initiatives, Jim Stritzinger. "This event is designed for technology professionals and highlights innovative uses of technology across a variety of industries. Our goal is to have everyone walk away seeing something that they've never seen before."

This event, a collaborative effort between IT-oLogy, an IT talent and workforce development collaborative, and South Carolina's State Broadband Initiative grantee Connect South Carolina, will share advances in hardware, software, infrastructure, and processes across a variety of industries and highlight efforts to increase broadband access, adoption, and use. Morning segments will feature a variety of guest speakers, including Ashley and Naifeh, and afternoon sessions will dive deeper into best practices, success stories, and product demonstrations.

"We are pleased to partner with IT-oLogy to produce an event that will not only showcase the work we are doing in South Carolina's communities, but to also gather local and state leaders, technology champions, technology providers, and state educators to share technology connections through broadband infrastructure and applications," said Connect South Carolina Community Technology Advisor Heather Jones. "This event will provide a platform to lay out the possibilities - highlighting innovative ways technology is impacting different sectors - and reiterating the demand for quality broadband to support such applications."

"IT-oLogy Connections 2013 in partnership with Connect South Carolina" will be held on Thursday, May 16, from 9 am – 5 pm EDT at the IT-oLogy Theater located at 1301 Gervais Street, Suite 101, in Columbia, South Carolina. For more information, please contact Stritzinger at jim.stritzinger@it-ology.org or (803) 978-1558 or Jones at summit@connectsc.org or (803) 743-5851.

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About IT-oLogy: IT-oLogy is a national non-profit collaboration of businesses, academic institutions and other organizations dedicated to growing the IT talent pipeline and advancing the IT profession. IT-oLogy has three major initiatives: Promote IT (K-12 schools), Teach IT (Higher Education) and Grow IT (Professionals and Businesses). For more information about IT-oLogy, visit www.it-ology.org or contact Rachel Barnett at rachel.barnett@it-ology.org or 803-354-5735.

About Connect South Carolina: As the State Broadband Initiative grantee, Connect South Carolina is leading the effort to increase high-speed Internet access, adoption and use to ensure South Carolina's competitiveness in the connected global economy of the twenty-first century. Connect South Carolina is a public-private partnership designated by the state to work with all broadband providers to create South Carolina's first interactive map of broadband coverage. This work serves as a foundation for addressing remaining service gaps while also engaging state, regional and local leaders in workforce development activities designed to bridge South Carolina's digital divide. For maps, research or to get involved with efforts in your community please visit: www.ConnectSC.org.

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